

Fludarabine (Fludara®)

What is Fludarabine?

Fludarabine is a chemotherapy medication used in the treatment of B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), acute myelogenous leukemia (AML), non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and low-grade lymphomas. Fludarabine is an "antimetabolite" and works by interfering with DNA synthesis in cancer cells.

How will I receive Fludarabine?

Fludarabine is given as a short infusion through your vein (Intravenous).

What are the common side effects?

Please see, "Managing Symptoms at Home", in the manual and refer to the Symptom Management section.

What You May Expect?	What Should You Do?
Decreased blood counts (lowered platelets, red and white blood cells) may occur. You may feel weak and tired. You may develop infections more easily and may bruise more easily. Your health care providers will test your blood frequently to monitor your blood counts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report any signs of infection, fever, and unusual bleeding or bruising.
Nausea and vomiting may occur, usually within 24-48 hours after treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may be given a prescription for an antinausea drug(s) to take at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred. Drink plenty of liquids. Eat and drink often in small amounts.
Neurologic side effects may occur with high doses, such as weakness, confusion, headache, agitation, visual disturbances, and tingling in hands or feet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify your nurse or physician if you are experiencing these symptoms.

These are the most common side effects. Others may occur. Please report any problems to your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse.

Call and Seek Help Immediately If You Have:

- Arm, back or jaw pain
- Fever or chills
- Blood in urine, vomit or stool
- Difficulty breathing
- Chest pain

Contact Your Nurse Or Doctor If You Have:

- Stomach pain or nausea
- Difficulty going to the bathroom
- Numbness or tingling in your hands or feet

Special Instructions

Use birth control while you are receiving Fludarabine and for 6 months after the last dose. Talk to your doctor or nurse about any questions.

Drug-Drug Interactions

There are no known drug-drug interactions with Fludarabine. However, check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs.

Drug-Food Interactions

None known at this time.

For more complete information please request an additional teaching sheet from the National Library of Medicine at www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginformation.html , your nurse, pharmacist, or visit the Resource Center.